

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 NSCE-00 NSC-05 INR-05

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R 051520Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 490

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1670

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA (ROCKEFELLER, DAVID)

SUBJECT: DAVID ROCKEFELLER'S VISIT TO ISRAEL

REF: (A) STATE 40391; (B) TEL AVIV 1335; (C) TEL AVIV 1659

1. DAVID ROCKEFELLER HAS COMPLETED BRIEF ONE-DAY VISIT TO ISRAEL DURING WHICH HE MET WITH PRIME MINISTER RABIN, DEFENSE MINISTER PERES, FINANCE MINISTER RABINOWITZ, COMMERCE MINISTER BAR-LEV, BANK OF ISRAEL GOVERNOR SANBAR, AND PRESIDENT BEN SHAHAR OF TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY. HE ALSO CALLED ON PRESIDENT KATZIR TO PRESENT CHAGAL PAINTING TO ISRAEL MUSEUM. HE WAS GIVEN DINNER BY RABINOWITZ AND LUCH BY SANBAR.

2. IN PRIVATE MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR, ROCKEFELLER SAID THAT HE WAS ASKED BY ISRAELIS TO INCLUDE ISRAEL IN CURRENT TOUR, WHICH COVERED 14 COUNTRIES IN 16 DAYS. WHILE HE EXPECTED ISRAELIS TO ASK HIM ONCE AGAIN TO ESTABLISH A CHASE MANHATTAN BRANCH IN ISRAEL, SUBJECT WAS NOT RAISED. HE ASSUMED REASON WAS THAT ISRAELIS HAD LEARNED BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL THAT CHASE STILL HELD VIEW THAT THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION TO HAVE
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BRANCH IN ISRAEL.

3. ISRAELIS DID INQUIRE WHETHER CHASE MANHATTAN COULD INCREASE ITS CURRENT LINE OF CREDIT TO ISRAEL. ROCKEFELLER GAVE NON-COMMITTAL REPLY. HE WAS ALSO NON-COMMITTAL IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL GRANT TO TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY.

4. IN MEETINGS WITH ISRAELI MINISTERS, ROCKEFELLER MADE POINT OF TELLING THEM ABOUT HIS RETURN TRIP TO CAIRO TODAY AT SADAT'S REQUEST. HE SAID THAT THEY EXPRESSED INTEREST BUT DID NOT SEEM UNDULY CONCERNED. PERES ASKED THAT ROCKEFELLER CONVEY TO SADAT MESSAGE THAT "ISRAEL IS PREPARED TO DE-ESCALATE IF HE IS WILLING TO DO SO". IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH RABIN, ROCKEFELLER MENTIONED PERES' REQUEST AND RABIN CONCURRED. RABIN, FOR HIS PART, GAVE DETAILED EXPOSITION OF HIS UNDERSTANDING OF SADAT AS PERSON AND ARAB LEADER. IN SO DOING, HE REVEALED DEEP DISTRUST OF SADAT'S INTENTIONS. AT SAME TIME HE REPEATEDLY ASKED WHY SADAT WAS NOT ABLE TO OBTAIN MORE FINANCING FROM SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER PERSIAN GULF ARABS, IMPLYING THAT ISRAEL FAVORED SUCH ASSISTANCE SO LONG AS IT WAS USED FOR EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

5. ROCKEFELLER ASKED RABIN IF HE WOULD SEND MESSAGE TO AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS REQUESTING UNDERSTANDING OF HIS RELATIONS WITH SADAT, IN PARTICULAR HIS TRIP TO CAIRO TODAY. RABIN DECLINED, POLITELY BUT FIRMLY. TOON

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